

Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-01 L-02

OPIC-03 OMB-01 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /058 W

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R 301111Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELTN, EAID, GB, US

SUBJ: EXIM PARTICIPATION IN TRANSGABON RAILROAD

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

DEPT PASS EXIM FOR KOBELINSKI

FROM AMBASSADOR

1. DURING VERY HELPFUL KOBELINSKI VISIT TO LIBREVILLE
WE UNDERSTOOD THAT EXIM WOULD TREAT GE LOCOMOTIVE AND
ORTON MACCULLOUGH CRANE PURCHASES AS PRODUCT LOANS
INDEPENDENT OF RAILROAD PROJECT. WE TRUST THAT THIS
IS STILL EXIM INTENTION AND THAT THESE LOANS CAN BE
RAPIDLY PROCESSED. SINCE MINISTER OF STATE RAWIRI WILL
BE COMING TO U.S. IN MID-FEBRUARY TO FINALIZE THESE
PURCHASES, SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY BE INFORMED SOONEST OF
ANY DOCUMENTATION NEEDED RE THESE TWO LOANS SO THAT
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AS MUCH PAPERWORK AS POSSIBLE CAN BE EXPEDITED PRIOR TO

RAWIRI ARRIVAL.

2. WITH REGARD TO TAMS CONTRACT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT EXIM APPROVAL OF LOAN FOR THIS PARTICULAR ITEM MUST BE TIED TO OVERALL APPROVAL OF RAILROAD PROJECT. TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 620 MILLION DOLLARS. OF THIS TOTAL, GOG FUNDING ABOUT 480 MILLION, FRANCE ABOUT 45 MILLION AND OTHER COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS (JAPAN, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, ITALY, ZAIRE, FED, AFDB) VIRTUALLY ALL OF REMAINDER. TAMS CONTRACT OF ABOUT 5 MILLION DOLLARS WOULD INVOLVE AN EXIM LOAN OF ABOUT 2.2 MILLION DOLLARS.

3. CONSIDERABLE DETAILED INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED ON PROJECT (SEE DOCUMENT GENERAL SUR LE TRANSGABONAI) AND ON GOG PRESENT RESOURCES AND EXPECTED EARNINGS (SEE LIBREVILLE 1243 AND LIBREVILLE 0067). IT OBVIOUSLY POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. WOULD SEEM REASONABLE TO EMBASSY, HOWEVER, THAT IF DATA ALREADY SUPPLIED IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE BY FRENCH COFACE AND OTHER LENDERS FOR THEM TO LOAN OVER 100 MILLION DOLLARS, SAME DATA SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR EXIM TO MAKE SMALL LOAN OF 2.2 MILLION..

4. CONSIDERING THAT U.S. HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY COMMITTED BY NEWSOM LETTER TO AN EXIM LOAN FOR RAILROAD OF AROUND 20 MILLION DOLLARS SINCE APRIL 1971, FURTHER DELAY BY US IN APPROVING THIS VERY SMALL LOAN (ABOUT ONE-TENTH OF AMOUNT ORIGINALLY MENTIONED) AT A TIME WHEN OTHER CONTRIBUTORS ARE MEETING THEIR COMMITMENTS FOR MUCH LARGER AMOUNTS SEEMS NOT ONLY IRRATIONAL, BUT IS CERTAIN TO BE VIEWED BY GOG AS UNFRIENDLY ACT, HARMFUL TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONS AND TO FUTURE U.S. COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GABON.

5. HOPE VERY MUCH, THEREFORE, THAT TWO PRODUCT LOANS DISCUSSED IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND SMALL TAMS LOAN (TIED TO RAILROAD PROJECT) CAN BE DEFINITELY APPROVED AT TIME RAWIRI VISIT.
MCKESSON

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